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State of Utah

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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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January 24, 2000

TO: Internal File

THRU: Dave Darby, Team Lead 

FROM: Priscilla Burton, Senior Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Pines Tract Lease, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine ACT/041/002-SR99D-2

SUMMARY:

A breakout at Muddy Canyon will disturb approximately 400 square feet on a steep (70%) slope. The slope is too steep for topsoil salvage and storage. As the soil falls inward to the mine opening, a mixture of topsoil and subsoil will be collected and stored within the mine opening.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.22; R645-301-230.

Analysis:

The area to be disturbed by the breakout is approximately 20 feet square, less than 0.01 acre. The location is on a very steep slope (70%). The plan for topsoil salvage is to collect what falls into the breakout, separate it from the coal and store it within the mine tunnel. Space will be made for approximately 25 CY of soil (enough to replace 20 inches of soil over the disturbance).

Findings:

The soil survey indicates that there is a four inch A horizon which is clearly superior in texture and fertility to the soil below. The 400 square foot area would yield about 4 yards of topsoil. However, the logistics of soil salvage from the small area on a steep and remote slope makes the removal of the topsoil impractical. The operation plan is permissible under R645-301-232.710.

RECLAMATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.22; R645-301-240.

Analysis:

Stored soil from within the mine will be brought to the surface and temporarily stored on the slope while the portal is backfilled from within the mine. Then, the soil will be spread over the surface. This will be accomplished using mining equipment and hand labor. The surface will be left roughened and gouged by hand using rakes and shovels.

Findings:

The information provided meets the regulatory requirements of this section.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The submittal meets the soils regulatory requirements for approval.